

2 October 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Reserve Officers Association of the United States (ROA) supports the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016* recently conferenced by the Congress. This omnibus bill contains many provisions that affect the Guard and Reserves. While we may not agree with every provision, the effect of the bill is more positive than negative and contains crucial provisions for the military, nation's security, and the welfare of those who serve.

The bill contains extensions to legislative provisions that are necessary to ensure that pay and benefits continue for service members even though the 2016 budget is still under consideration. Regardless of the final budget amounts passed, the NDAA will ensure there are no disruptions to benefits and compensation for military members and their families.

Additionally, the bill has provisions that significantly update the military retirement system, reflecting recommendations from the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission refined by your own Secretary of Defense. This represents historic progress on an important issue; the opportunity is to extend retirement to some 80 percent of the force currently not covered or provide lump sum retirement benefits to Guard and Reserve and preserve the budgetary integrity of the retirement system.

ROA has a membership of 50,000 former and currently serving officers and noncommissioned officers represents all the uniformed services of the United States who would be favorably affected by your signing this bill into law.

Thank you for including ROA in discussions on these and other matters in the past year. Your team has represented you exceedingly well! Your efforts and support to the military are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



James R. Sweeney II
President